

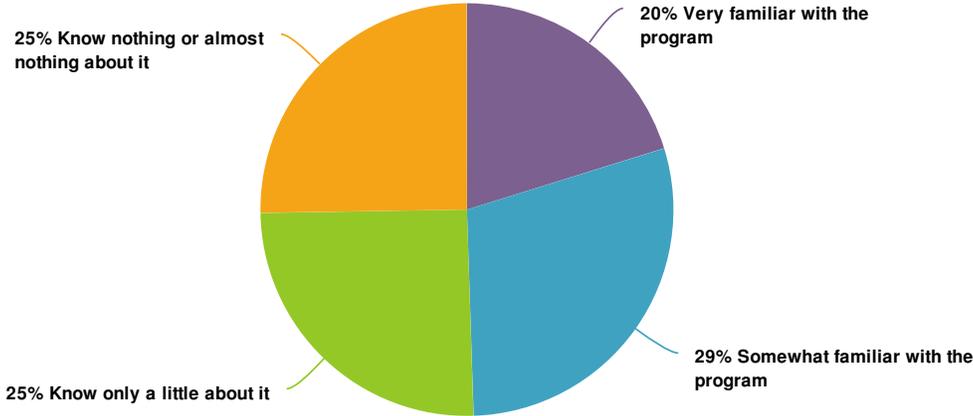
Report for Sister Cities Survey

Response Counts

Completion Rate:	81.6%		
Complete			209
Partial			19
Disqualified			28

Totals: 256

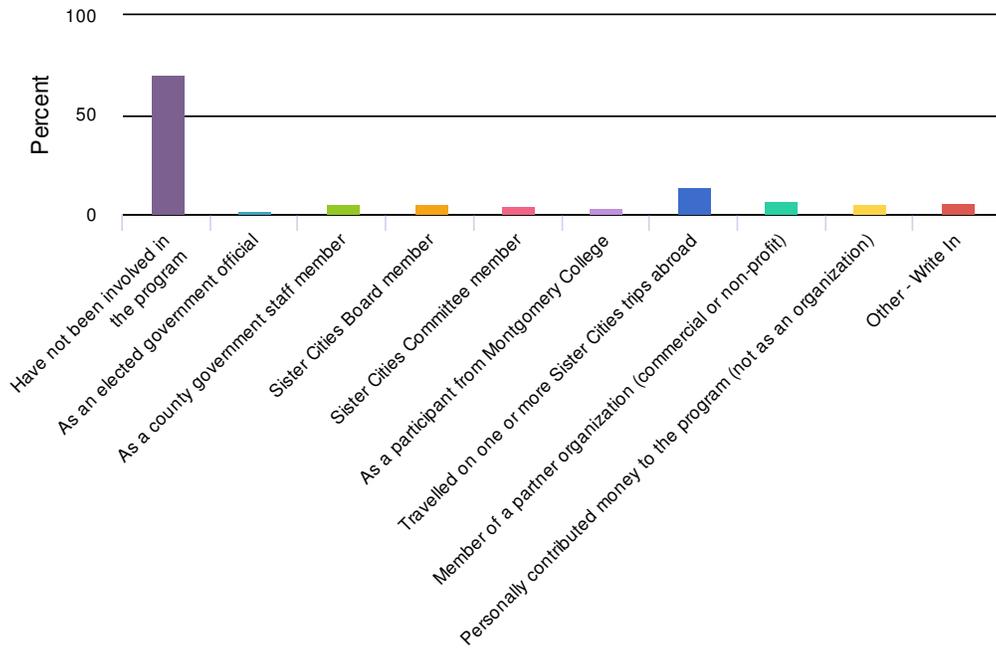
1. How familiar are you with the Montgomery Sister Cities program?



Value	Percent	Responses
Very familiar with the program	20%	50
Somewhat familiar with the program	29%	75
Know only a little about it	25%	65
Know nothing or almost nothing about it	25%	65

Totals: 255

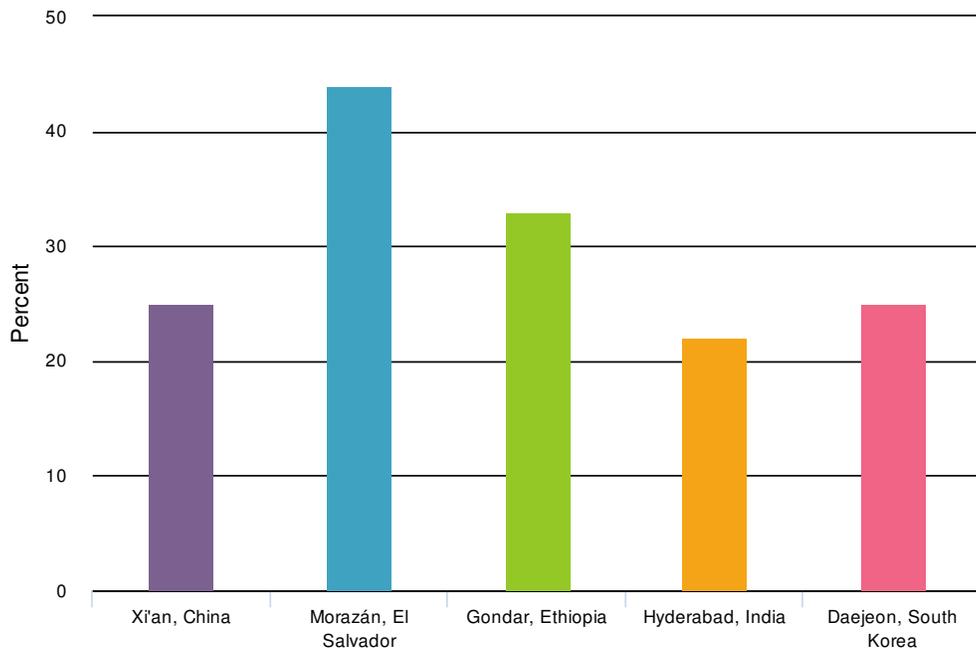
2. Mark the ways, if any, you have been involved in the Montgomery Sister Cities program. (Mark all that apply or mark "Have not been involved in the program".)



Value	Percent	Responses
Have not been involved in the program	70%	179
As an elected government official	2%	4
As a county government staff member	5%	13
Sister Cities Board member	5%	13
Sister Cities Committee member	4%	11
As a participant from Montgomery College	3%	8
Travelled on one or more Sister Cities trips abroad	14%	37
Member of a partner organization (commercial or non-profit)	7%	17
Personally contributed money to the program (not as an organization)	5%	12
Other - Write In	6%	16

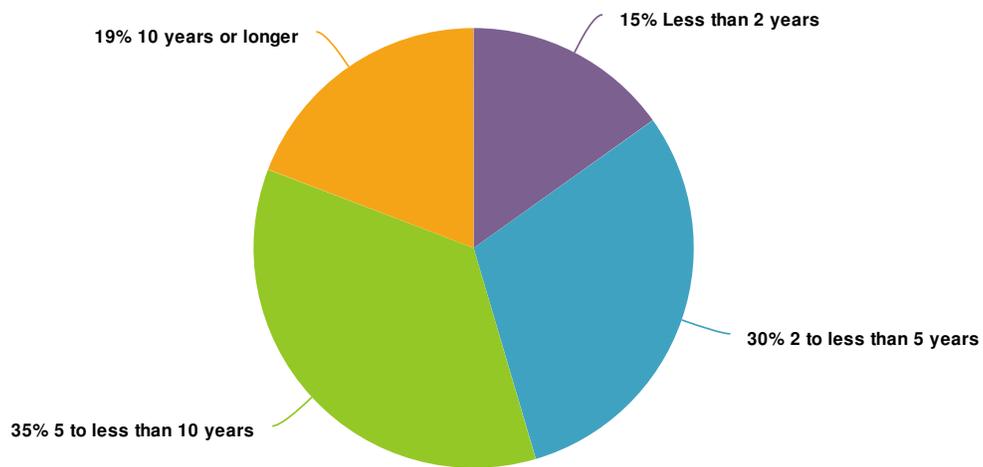
Other - Write In	Count
As a U.S. diplomat overseas	1
Attnded events, read articles	1
Board member two terms, Baltimore-Gbarnga Sister Cities, under former Mayor O'Malley	1
Have not been involved but as a county employee i have followed the develoment of the program	1
Have worked with MD Sister States program.	1
I conducted an evaluative case study of the Salvadoran-MoCo partnership.	1
I think I did something involved with the program as an MCPS student like 30 years ago	1
In initial discussions about the program. Received training and iformation about the program. I am aware of China, Ethiopia, and El salvador Sister Cities. Followed information about the trips to these cities. I have been invited to participate/travel.	1
Know many who are involved	1
Participated in your programs.	1
Rockville sis cit board mbr	1
Uesd facility	1
Volunteer	1
Went to Xiaging, Rockville's sister city	1
attended events	1
dont know what it is	1
Totals	16

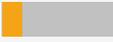
3. Where did you take trips as part of the Sisters Cities program? (Mark all that apply.)



Value	Percent	Responses
Xi'an, China	25%	9
Morazán, El Salvador	44%	16
Gondar, Ethiopia	33%	12
Hyderabad, India	22%	8
Daejeon, South Korea	25%	9

4. How long has it been since you first became involved with the program?



Value		Percent	Responses
Less than 2 years		15%	12
2 to less than 5 years		30%	24
5 to less than 10 years		35%	28
10 years or longer		19%	15
Totals: 79			

5. Various goals have been suggested for the Montgomery Sister Cities program. While none are unimportant, please take a moment to review the goals, and then rank them in terms of how you view their importance for future program focus. Use 1 for the most important goal, 2 for the next most important, ... and 5 for the least important among the five.

Item	Overall Rank	Rank Distribution	Score	No. of Rankings
Creating a welcoming environment - broadening our understanding of cultures from other countries represented in Montgomery Co.	1		691	198
Community engagement - developing relationships with underrepresented and underserved ethnic and faith communities in the county	2		673	196
Economic development - providing economic development opportunities for Montgomery Co. businesses and bringing new businesses here from Sister Cities countries	3		576	198
Humanitarian projects - fostering local involvement in efforts helping people living in our Sister Cities	4		568	217
Preparing global citizens for the future - promoting trips for local young people to broaden their skills and help them thrive in the globalized world	5		562	195



Low est Rank High est Rank

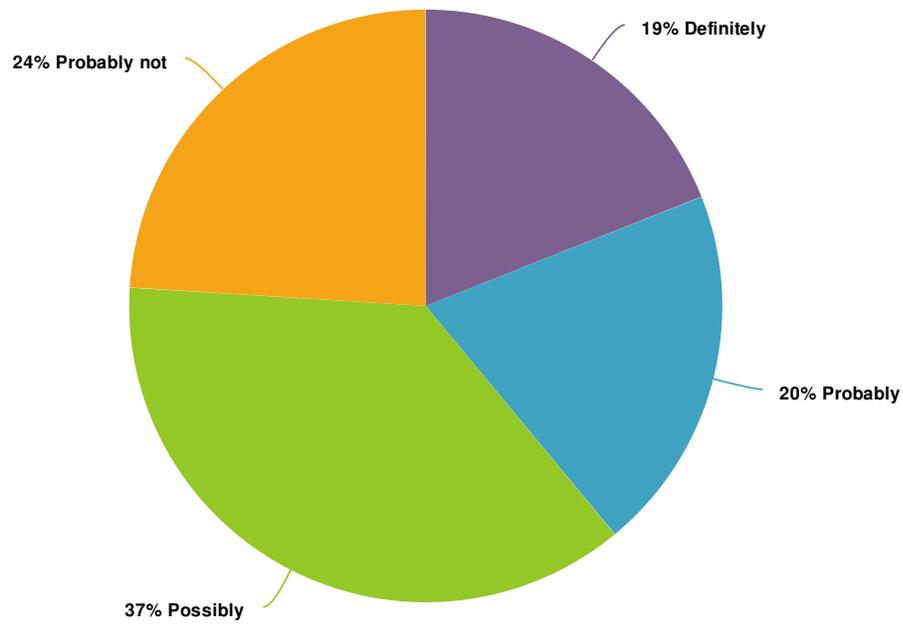
6. Which Sister City are you most interested in, and which are you next most interested in? (Mark one answer in each row.)

	Xi'an, China	Gondar, Ethiopia	Morazán, El Salvador	Hyderabad, India	Daejeon, South Korea	Don't know or none	Responses
Most interested in this city Count Row %	19 9%	57 27%	45 21%	27 13%	15 7%	52 24%	215 100%
Next most interested in this city Count Row %	16 8%	37 17%	37 17%	29 14%	36 17%	58 27%	213 99%
Totals Total Responses							215

7. Once it is judged appropriate to do so, Montgomery Sister Cities is considering hosting regular events between trips for people to learn more about the history and culture of our Sister Cities. How likely are you to attend ...

	Definitely	Probably	Possibly	Probably not	Responses
Concerts featuring the music of one or more Sister Cities Count Row %	60 28%	62 29%	65 30%	28 13%	215 100%
Exhibitions featuring the art of one or more sister cities Count Row %	71 33%	70 32%	60 28%	15 7%	216 100%
Seminars relating a Sister City's history and culture Count Row %	64 30%	63 30%	56 26%	29 14%	212 98%
Sessions about economic development opportunities Count Row %	51 24%	44 21%	57 27%	61 29%	213 99%
Totals Total Responses					216

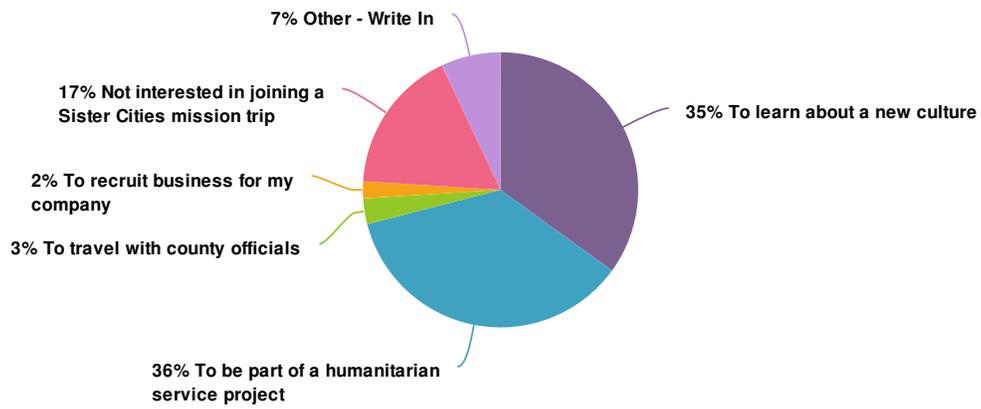
8. The Sister Cities program welcomes new volunteers, including for work on city specific committees. Committees plan trips to Sister Cities and other activities. Would you be willing to serve on such a committee that meets six times a year? (Your answer does not commit you.)



Value	Percent	Responses
Definitely	19%	42
Probably	20%	43
Possibly	37%	80
Probably not	24%	53

Totals: 218

9. Mission trips to our Sister Cities is one of the primary activities of the program. What is the main reason you might decide to join a Sister Cities mission trip?

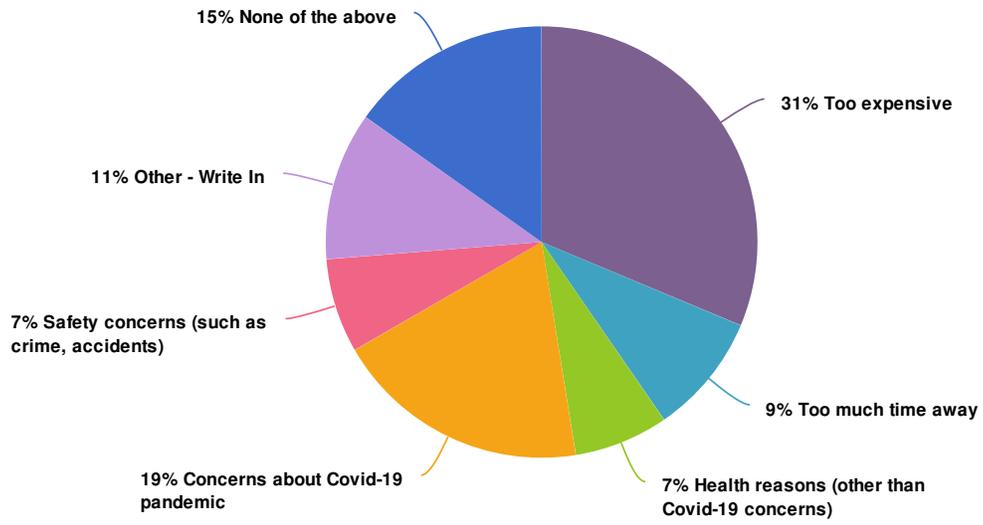


Value	Percent	Responses
To learn about a new culture	35%	75
To be part of a humanitarian service project	36%	77
To travel with county officials	3%	6
To recruit business for my company	2%	5
Not interested in joining a Sister Cities mission trip	17%	37
Other - Write In	7%	15

Totals: 215

Other - Write In	Count
Have lived and worked in Gondar and Addis when Ethiopia was opening up after Derg - helped with refugee and immigrant resettlement in US in 1980s/1990s so eager to help connect Diaspora back to Ethiopia	1
I may go if I succeed in getting a city in my original compnected	1
Participating in this trip helped me understand my culture and it helped me understand that our county is interested in our heritage.	1
RSCC has own program	1
To be helpful with the program	1
To be part of a cultural, humanitarian, and economic engagement themed effort	1
To help bring business to Montgomery County and to learn about a new culture	1
To not only learn more about another culture but continue studying and evaluating the county's sister cities, with an eye toward exploring another one with a Middle Eastern, North African, or South Asian country (other than India)	1
Would like to To recruit business for my company but not willing to travel as business is local. If there was a way to do local for it that would be great!	1
help underserved communities	1
seems like a nice vacation.	1
strong belief in Sister City model and extensive experience with exchange programs	1
to Build strong relationship and attachment to between the cities, to help each concerning humanity , social, cultural , economical issues. Understand the sister cities and help with information , education, and exchange business idea	1
to help encourage inward investment to Moco	1
to learn more about the country from which many of our ESOL clients come	1
Totals	15

10. What is the main reason you might decide not to join a Sister Cities mission trip?



Value	Percent	Responses
Too expensive	31%	68
Too much time away	9%	19
Health reasons (other than Covid-19 concerns)	7%	16
Concerns about Covid-19 pandemic	19%	42
Safety concerns (such as crime, accidents)	7%	15
Other - Write In	11%	24
None of the above	15%	32

Totals: 216

Other - Write In	Count
Going with the right group of people (same age, people I knew before)	1
Health reasons and COVID	1
IF joining a Rockville Sister Cities trip the same year to Yilan, Taiwan or Pinnenberg, Germany	1
Not a priority	1
Not interested	1
Only if I'm not available otherwise it is always good to serve.	1
Responsibility for my family and low income	1
The costs and long traveling time for short stays	1
The then existing conditons	1
Timing of the trip depending on my work schedule	1
Too many Sister Cities	1
Too old	1
We should focus on the actual needs of our county residents	1
Work	1
Work conflict	1
all of the above	1
dont know to much about it	1
might not have time	1
mission implies religious - if so, I am NOT interested	1
my age--over 80	1
program waste of tax payers money	1
time away from home, would consider if my family could accompany me on the trip	1
with daca can't fly by could contribute to on county activities	1
work/family obligations	1
Totals	24

11. What could Montgomery Sister Cities do to make future trips attractive to you?

ResponseID	Response
11	I don't think the county should be putting resources into this program.
15	Reduce the number of Sister Cities
16	The program should be on continuous basis rather than one time.
21	Depends on the time of year away as have to coordinate with work schedule. Be sure health concerns are factored in.
25	Develop a cohesive group for the trip before going on the trip.
26	Price or aid
27	Cost and clear vision of the project. End product and educational benefits to children there.
29	I would love to be part of a Sister Cities mission trip, really to any of the sister cities listed and for all of the first three reasons in #8 I don't know how expensive they actually are, and cost could be a constraint. Obviously, the main problem to overcome will be the global health situation and attendant risks of flying.
35	Make it less expensive
36	A vaccine for coronavirus
38	Give as much advance notice as possible.
40	more countries
43	Make sure the delegation includes a strong representation of people whose families came from the Sister City.
45	Ask me again when I'm less busy.
47	Strive for low cost (subsidized?), keep group size small (max 25).
50	Trips that involved art and music in Sister Cities
53	Request our sister cities to participate in county events, when possible.
54	Provide security
55	Diverse participants
58	Assist with funding
59	Pay for my Participation
61	Make them more accessible to public and employees. Info is not well known
63	Include West African cultural trips.
67	Nothing
68	Cultural programming, interactive lessons like cutting coffee or pottery making, hammock weaving.. something like that. That would encourage me to bring back that knowledge and recreate crafts to share with other Salvadorans

ResponseID	Response
69	Pay the way
73	Develop a sister-city relationship with a European country, whose population has a relatively high representation in Montgomery County.
74	help disburse the costs
75	Better communication about program, about opportunities and better outreach programming, opportunities to learn
78	I have never been on one; I am unsure.
81	Host a virtual information session.
82	Planned itineraries, "freebies", ways to support other than attending the trip
89	It's fine as is.
90	Love to travel to different parts of the world.
92	Subsidized costs, cultural exchange and humanitarian opportunities
94	Add Saigon Vietnam to MoCo Sister cities program.
96	This is no time for future trips. It's a time to buckle down and conserve resources and be safe.
97	Well organized and promoted.
98	Help with the expense and knowing and planning what the MSC's objectives and goals.
99	better timely information
104	scholarship for those who do not have the money.
107	it has been an interesting ride
108	Just set it up.
109	Trips during holiday, spring breaks and summers when schools are not in session.
110	Include a Broad participation of the county's diversity
111	Make Sister City trips available to the general public, especially children from our Public Schools, lower income folks, and people born in the U.S. Stop letting senior elected officials/appointees use these trips as "perks" or emoluments.
112	Nothing. Don't need the county to spend money on delegations abroad. We should focus on our own community here in Montgomery County. We can learn about many cultures and do humanitarian work helping others in our own county.
114	Love to do Sister city trip to Egypt. Lots of business opportunities and the wonderful ancient Egyptian History!!
115	Offer them after I retire (in a few years)

ResponseID	Response
116	I visited El Salvador summer of 2018 to learn more about the culture and language of my students. I wish there had been a Sister City connection to help me visit local schools while I was there.
117	Make it more affordable.
118	It would be nice to build relationships with the local Sister Cities community before going on a trip. This way the country that you're visiting can help with planning and Montgomery County visitors will know what to expect before going.
119	Communicate the trip in time to plan to travel. Goals need to be set out as well.
120	Safety, appropriate accommodations, information on cultural/religious/historic/etc
121	The trip must be cost-effective. The trips must be properly coordinated and the purpose of the trip should be well defined.
122	Raise funds for those that are unable to go on the trip
125	Help participants meet travel costs.
128	Not sure.
130	Ethiopia more interprets than China because I frequently travel and work there. China would be new and relatively expensive for me so would like to see value of visit for individuals and county relations
133	Help to facilitate personal connections.
134	Develop an internet/link accessible to members interested in visiting a Sister City.
135	Provide more details and sponsor trips and events
136	Interesting cities to visit and with subsidy from the County.
142	Mission trips that allow participants to serve, but also focus on partnership, what both parties can bring to the table and learn from one another.
145	not sure
146	Combine the trips to the Sister Cities with tours of other interesting cultural and historical sites in the country.
147	input into plans
148	NA
151	as a Montgomery County resident very proud to part of this program but I really not sure what does it take to travel to Sister cities projects I'm a person who always did volunteer jobs within our county i do participate on MLK day projects every year , so far thankful for that , hopefully in couple of years my daughter will be tur 26 of from the health insurance, then may be i be able to think for travel until then I still can participate with my home town here in Montgomery County Thanks,
152	A bit more detail, photos, video about the Sister City before the trip begins.
153	Less money

ResponseID	Response
156	- Culture - Humanitarian Projects
157	Continue to look at new cities to strengthen global partnerships.
159	Have the local community members get involved in leading the organization, specially members of the community from the country of origin.
160	Recruitment of a diverse members.
161	Tell me more information. Also, I am a single Mom with a 7 year old so he would have to become part of the trip
162	Let everybody know about places that are going to visit. The same way was done in the past. To me was excellent
165	Nothing
166	Get some local (sister cities) sponsorships to minimize the participants expenses, have participants more involved with meetings, etc. instead using them as the backdrop of photos, and add little more leisure time at each locations.
168	None
173	Allow payment plans
174	give staggered payment opportunities
176	To promote and not compromise our democracy and American values for economic gains.
177	Timing and expense
179	Communicate better on the sister cities to help people in the county find their interest in the program.
181	I was very pleased with how the trips I made were planned and implemented. I have no suggestions for future improvements.
182	a specific project... ie help a school in tech
183	Make the amount of time away reasonable (in order to still accommodate a work schedule)
184	Don't know enough to properly respond to this.
190	not sure
196	I work in international development with more expertise in East and Southern African countries, so I would be more qualified to participate in trips in those countries.
201	Subside the cost
202	Plan clear career development opportunities for citizens who visit sister cities.
203	I would like to see a European City join our sister cities group. South America, Africa and Asia are represented but Europe is not. The Middle East is also not there.
207	Not sure

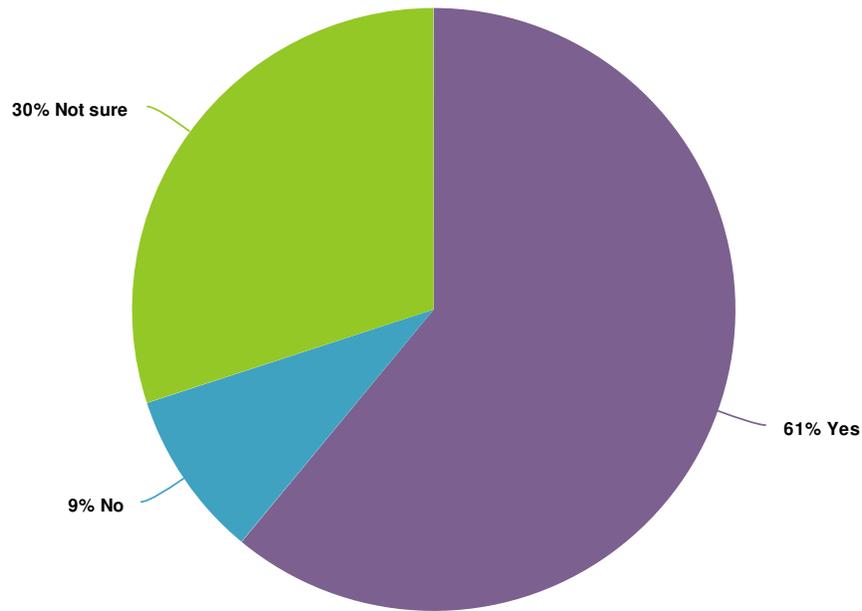
ResponseID Response

209	The county has done an amazing job in promoting Sister Cities events. However, I will say if we could provide more testimonials of businesses attended past trips to engage more businesses to participate and see the value of learning other cultures and developing potentially business engagement opportunities for our county. Maybe creating virtual informational sessions in partnership with the chamber of commerce, non-profit, faith base organizations and other government agencies.
210	Until there is a vaccine / cure for Covid, I would not be making any trips anywhere.
211	Find additional locations.
212	Provide full or partial sponsorship for travel wherever there's interest but insufficient or lack of funds to support the individual's desire for participation.
214	Networking opportunities to diversify my network
215	Determine what follow up steps will be taken once the trip is carried out. It is all about follow up and building relationships not just parachuting through a trip, how to engage here and there.
219	Better publicity and testimonies of attendees.
221	The trip I attended was very well organized.
222	Offer grants
224	If you select one of our original country's city accepted as a sister city.
225	Provide the travel group with a thorough background about the city/country to which we would be traveling, and avail us with opportunities to interact in advance of the trip.
228	Provide more information about the trips and what the responsibilities of the participants would be and the length of the trip.
229	Make the trips affordable for volunteers and people who are not county employees
233	Send more literature, either via email or USPS.
235	invite me!
236	Cover all costs.
237	Besides the cost I would not want to leave my wife alone. Going both could be costly.
239	nothing
243	n/a
245	Provide updated information on medically-safe traveling policies & procedures.
249	Provide sufficient education regarding culture, history, and language barriers. I would also have concerns in terms of expense, possible health risks, and needing time off from work.
250	The young generation learning/working in the county need to be part of the future trip/ and be inclusive to make them involved.

ResponseID Response

252	The personal expense issue might be reduced if there were some joint fundraising for airfare and/or lodging costs. Of course since I am suggesting it, I would be willing to volunteer for that purpose.
256	I think the county is doing its best for sister city project
258	For what I have heard the trip are well plan so far.
260	Safe trip and conducive environment to interact, engage and learn.
261	Create trip opportunities for entire families to participate together.
262	I am not interested in this program given the state of the American economy and the American health system. A more relevant issue is how to address the economic struggles Montgomery's citizens will soon be facing in the next 2 years.
263	Allow me to take a spouse with me and if the price is affordable.
264	I am immuno-compromised - my support would have to be local, regardless of the current pandemic.
265	i do recall some trips are planned during the school year, if i recall correctly; clearly that makes sense because less crowded but difficult for some to make that time frame
266	Try to make the trips l as expensive.
267	I don't know much about the program other than that some of the county interfaith leaders (Rev. Kaseman and others) traveled to Ethiopia but I don't really know what they did, how people are selected for the trips, who pays for the travel, etc.
269	Have local events to accomplish the same purpose as the trips abroad
270	Not sure. We don't travel abroad.
272	I believe the Sister cities can plan the trip in advance and promote the event widely in the community so most people get the word of it.
276	Opportunity to provide feedback on future sites Better post trip and follow-up Defined opportunities for maintaining connections
278	The trips are attractive- but I do think the communication between trips would be helpful. Although I am a former participant, I do not get much in the way of updates regarding Ethiopia since I returned and I do not get anything related to the other sister cities.
281	well planned and inexpensive
284	Affordable travel.
285	Cancel them, I think these trips are boondoggles. Meet and great on Zoom and save money.
286	help supplement some cost associated with traveling to sister cities.
291	Keep the cost reasonable.
292	Need to learn more

12. If you decided you'd like to go on a future Sister Cities mission trip, would you feel comfortable going on that trip after the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) says it's safe to travel?

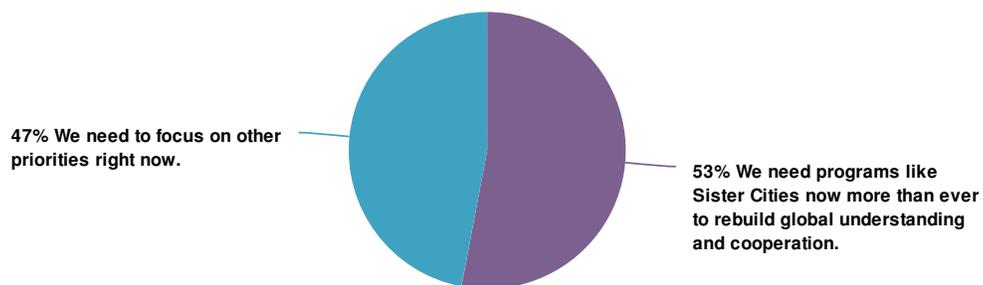


Value	Percent	Responses
Yes	61%	129
No	9%	19
Not sure	30%	64
		Totals: 212

13. If current restrictions continue, would you be interested in attending or participating in these possible Sister Cities events using Zoom or some similar computer technology (free)? (Mark one answer in each row.)

	Definitely	Probably	Possibly	Probably not	Responses
A virtual Town Hall about the future of the Montgomery Sister Cities program? Count Row %	62 30%	54 26%	54 26%	38 18%	208 100%
A virtual World of Montgomery Festival? Count Row %	52 25%	55 26%	59 28%	42 20%	208 100%
Virtual trips to one or more of the five Sister Cities? Count Row %	69 33%	60 29%	55 26%	25 12%	209 100%
A virtual Summit with leaders from Montgomery County and all five Sister Cities? Count Row %	58 28%	44 21%	57 28%	47 23%	206 99%
Totals Total Responses					209

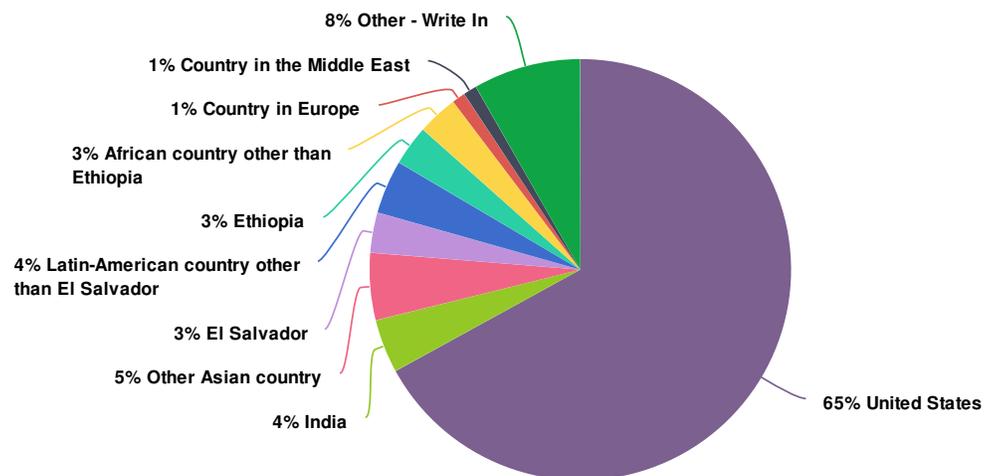
14. We are currently experiencing a global health pandemic and economic crisis. Our county budget is under stress. Which of these views better reflects your attitude?



Value	Percent	Responses
We need programs like Sister Cities now more than ever to rebuild global understanding and cooperation.	53%	110
We need to focus on other priorities right now.	47%	99

Totals: 209

15. In what country were you born?

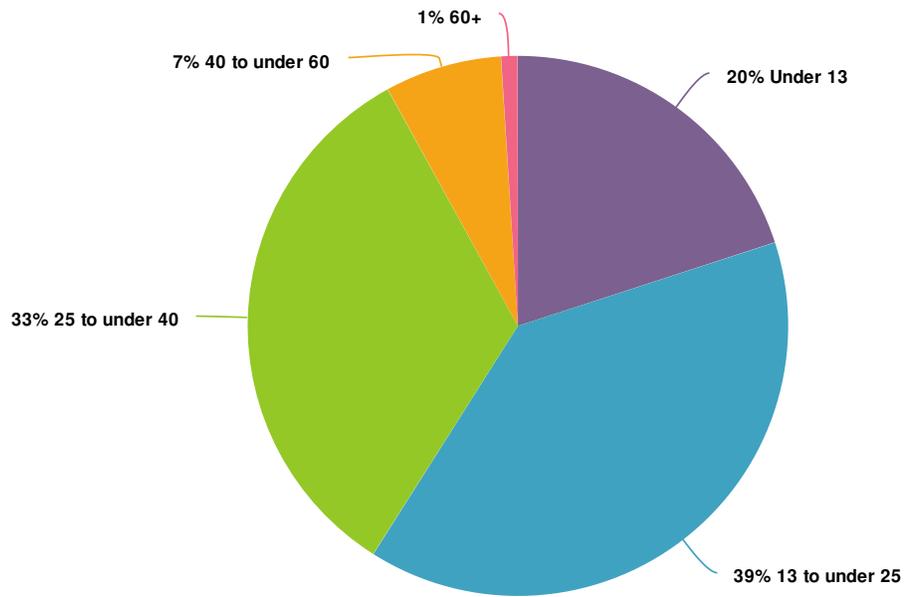


Value		Percent	Responses
United States		65%	133
China		0%	1
India		4%	9
North or South Korea		0%	1
Other Asian country		5%	11
El Salvador		3%	6
Latin-American country other than El Salvador		4%	9
Ethiopia		3%	7
African country other than Ethiopia		3%	6
Country in Europe		1%	2
Russia or former Soviet Union country		0%	0
Country in the Middle East		1%	3
Other - Write In		8%	17

Totals: 205

Other - Write In	Count
Puerto Rico	2
Vietnam	2
Canada	1
Guatemala	1
I was born in the Panama Canal Zone while it was a U.S. territory.	1
Italy	1
Pakistan	1
Peru	1
Sierra Leone	1
Sudan	1
Taiwan	1
UK	1
ecuador	1
mexico	1
peru	1
Totals	17

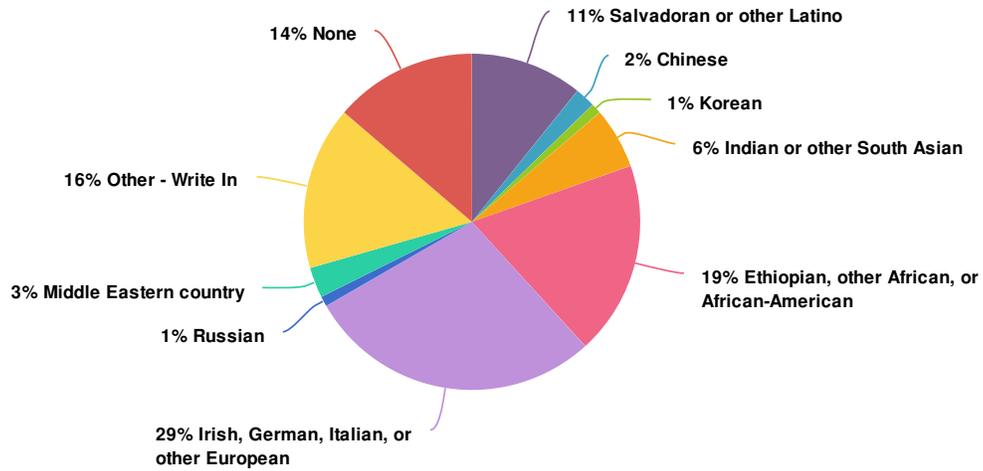
16. How old were you when you moved to the United States?



Value		Percent	Responses
Under 13		20%	14
13 to under 25		39%	27
25 to under 40		33%	23
40 to under 60		7%	5
60+		1%	1

Totals: 70

17. Regardless of where you were born, what nationality group do you identify with the most?

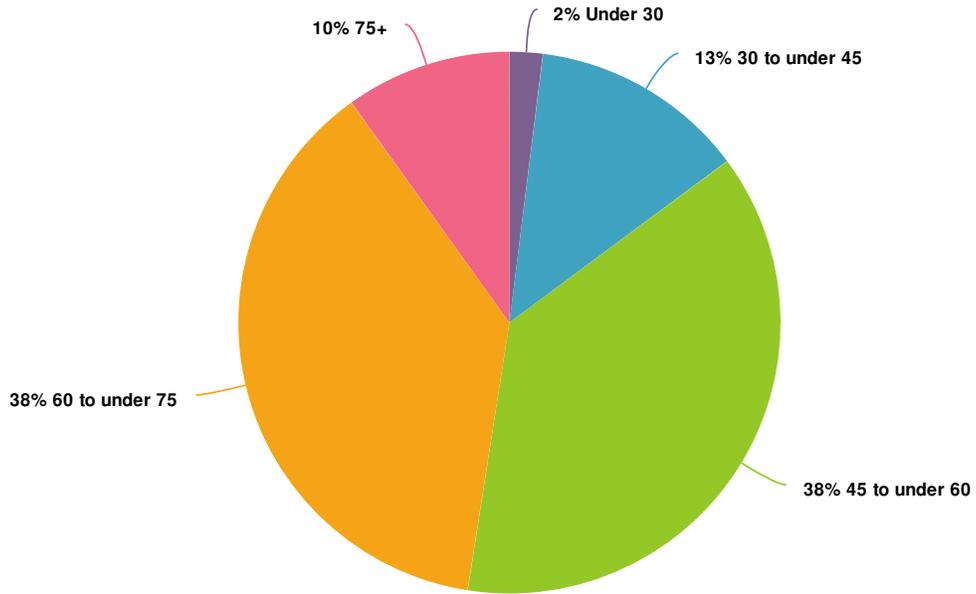


Value	Percent	Responses
Salvadoran or other Latino	11%	22
Chinese	2%	4
Korean	1%	1
Indian or other South Asian	6%	11
Ethiopian, other African, or African-American	19%	37
Irish, German, Italian, or other European	29%	57
Russian	1%	2
Middle Eastern country	3%	5
Other - Write In	16%	32
None	14%	28

Totals: 199

Other - Write In	Count
American	7
Vietnam	2
American, Latin American	1
American- English	1
Black Caribbean	1
European Jewish	1
Georgian	1
Japanese	1
Japanese African American	1
Latinx	1
Mixed - white mostly with African and Native Indian	1
Mixture of cultures	1
Native American	1
Pennsylvania Dutch	1
Philippines	1
Puerto Rican/Nicaraguense	1
Southeast Asian	1
Taiwanese	1
United States of America	1
United States of America. The term "nationality" above is confusing, given that I am a US citizen. Perhaps you mean ethnicity?	1
Vietnamese	1
american citizen	1
black hispanic	1
ethnic Jew	1
Totals	31

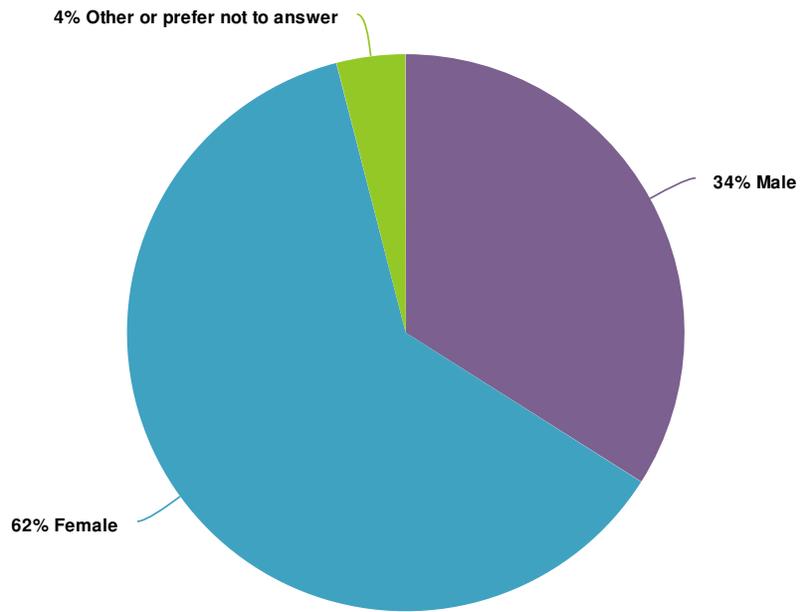
18. What is your age now?



Value	Percent	Responses
Under 30	2%	3
30 to under 45	13%	26
45 to under 60	38%	76
60 to under 75	38%	76
75+	10%	19

Totals: 200

19. Are you male or female?



Value		Percent	Responses
Male		34%	68
Female		62%	125
Other or prefer not to answer		4%	9

Totals: 202